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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 31 www.associatednewspapers.net

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Vol. 136, No. 31

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Westland officials have declared war on the invading horde of mosquitoes that have been plaguing residents recently.

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Ford to open $100 million battery plant in Romulus

Romulus will become the home of the new, $100 million Ford Motor Co. global battery research and development center, Ford Ion Park.

The decision to move to Romulus was announced by Ford officials last week and characterized as an acceleration of the automaker's "research and development of battery and battery cell technology." The former A123 Systems 270,000 square-foot facility located at 38100 Ecorse Road will be refurbished by Ford and take advantage of the remaining five years of tax abatement under the Renaissance Zone designation. A123 Systems was granted approval of a 15-year renaissance zone by the Michigan Economic Development Corp. in 2010. That designation allows companies to operate free of all state and local taxes during the term of the agreement. The remaining five years of the designation is estimated to total about $1 million in tax abatements.

> *"Ford's investment in battery research and development in Romulus will support hundreds of good-paying jobs..."*

The A123 Systems plant was one of the largest electrode battery plants in North America and the building already features a complete anode/cathode processing line with material mixing, roll slitting, coating, drying, packaging, and solvent recovery systems, according to the A123 Systems website.

The Ford facility will bring about 200 engineering, research and other jobs to Romulus, according to a statement from the company and renovations should be complete in about 18 months.

"Ford already is delivering on our plan to lead the electric revolution with strong new vehicles including Mustang Mach-E, 2022 E-Transit available late 2021 and the 2022 F-150 Lightning available from spring next year," said Anand Sankaran, Ford Ion Park director. "The new lab will help Ford speed up the battery development process to deliver even more capable, affordable batteries and is part of Ford's renewed commitment to making Michigan a centerpiece of its focus on EVs.

"We are thankful for the support of the MEDC and the Michigan Strategic Fund in helping establish Ford Ion Park in Romulus," said Sankaran.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer also praised the new Romulus plant location.

"Ford's investment in battery research and development in Romulus will support hundreds of good-paying jobs, attract innovative talent to Michigan, and help us continue leading the world in advanced mobility and manufacturing," she said in a statement. "Ford is an American icon that has left its mark on the world over a century, and with the research that will take place at Ford Ion Park, they will shape the next century while reducing emissions and accelerating electrification."

The project represents $100 million of a total $185 million investment Ford Motor Co. officials pledged earlier this year for the development, testing and manufacture of battery cells and cell arrays.

Blues, Brews and BBQ

Annual city festival returns with headline entertainment, fireworks

They are already firing up the grills in preparation for the 10th Annual Blues, Brews and BBQ event which will return to Westland this weekend, Aug. 6 and 7.

The event will feature talented musicians, all American barbecue and a selection of Michigan craft beers at Thomas H. Brown Central City Park.

Showing off their grill skills will be professional pit-masters Hill Billy Bone BBQ, Heaven on a Roll, Old Dads BBQ, The Grill Father, and Smokehouse 52 BBQ, all serving on-site, slow cooked, authentic BBQ. Also set to offer their wares are Harvest Kettle Corn, Detroit Mini Donut, Big Dog Hot Dogs, and Redd Ventures.

Tomorrow night, Aug. 6, attendees will be treated to Monsieur Guillaume and His Zydeco Hepcats kicking it off at 5 p.m. Taking the stage next will be The Boa Constrictors, performing from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and then the headline act, Broken Arrow Blues, will finish the night from 9 until 11 p.m.

The fun rolls right into Saturday, Aug. 7 with Family Fun Time starting at the park at 2 p.m. The Joe Stanley Trio will begin playing at 4 p.m. and from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. Drew Schultz & the Broken Habits will take the stage. Renown Blues artist Thornetta Davis will perform from 8:30 until 10 p.m.

Members of the Westland Fire Department have partnered with Kroger in order to distribute COVID-19 vaccines on site during the event.

Closing the event on Saturday will be the much-anticipated All American Firework Celebration which includes a special tribute drone show to honor the 55th anniversary of Westland as a city.

"It has been truly incredible to watch this event grow for the past 10 years and we are so excited to bring it back to the community just in time to celebrate the city's 55th anniversary," commented Mayor William R. Wild.

"In addition to being a perfect way to spend a summer weekend, proceeds benefit a number of Westland charities. Proceeds from this event benefit local civic organizations to support their charitable work locally in Westland. To date, this event has raised and given back to the community nearly $250,000," Wild said.

Official hours for the event are 5 until

See **BBQ,** page 5

Area legislator's campaign finance report prompts questions

The financial report of State Rep. Jewell Jones, D-Inkster, has drawn questions from some local lawmakers.

In his required financial fundraising report submitted last week, Jones, 25, claims to have spent more than $6,400 since Jan. 1 at restaurants or lounges. He reportedly spent a total of $15,926, including $12,057 described as "incidental" to his serving in office.

Rep. Jewell Jones

Among his expenses is listed a $221 charge at a strip club in Dearborn. The report, which lists spending from Jan. 1 through July 20, 2021, lists the cost as a "constituent meeting" to "discuss potential economic projects." The financial reports are required by the state to ensure that candidates and officeholders do not violate state campaign funding or spending laws.

Jones, when questioned by reporters about the expense, claimed he was unsure the Pantheion Club was a strip club but was a "lounge." The Pantheion Club is well-known throughout the state as the "oldest and most established gentlemens (sic) club in Michigan," as it is described on social media.

Also raising questions was a $696 charge at Ferraro's Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar in Las Vegas on March 22. The report described the expense as a "dinner meeting with other legislators." According to the report, Jones spent $514 at Jon's Goodtime Bar & Grill in Inkster for a "Meeting with community stakeholders on potential projects" only a week later, on March 29.

Jones is currently facing criminal charges following an auto accident April 6 in Fowlerville when State Police Troopers responded to 911 calls from several motorists about a car driving erratically on Interstate 96. Local police and troopers found Jones with a female companion in his Chevy Tahoe which had run into a sign and come to rest in a ditch. According to police reports, Jones became extremely agitated at the scene and threatened to "call the governor" and repeatedly refused to produce identification. Officers also observed a loaded handgun in the front seat of the vehicle.

Jones' blood alcohol content, according to police reports, was 0.19. The legal limit in Michigan is 0.08. He is facing trial on charges of resisting arrest, operating while intoxicated, reckless driving and possession of a weapon while under the influence of alcohol.

State officials said that the purchase of meals by legislators using campaign or officeholder funds is not unusual but said that the totals on Jones' report did appear to stretch "the limits of incredulity."

Canton

Veteran police officer retires from force

Canton Police Sgt. Eric Kolke has retired from the department after a 25-year career with the township.

Kolke was hired as a police officer in 1996, and was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2014. He has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Madonna University, and is a graduate of the Michigan State University Police Staff and Command School.

> *After 25 years of excellent service, our department is losing a very talented command officer to a well-deserved retirement.*

Kolke began his career with an immediate interest in special units, most of which he worked in addition to his regular patrol duties. He was selected for a multitude of assignments including evidence technician, the bicycle unit, the honor guard, field training officer, rifle instructor, range instructor, special enforcement unit, motorcycle instructor, rapid response unit and search warrant team. Most notably, Kolke served 22 years on the Western-Wayne Special Operations Team. As a member of this prestigious unit, he originally held a sniper position, later advancing to the sniper team leader. He currently holds the rank of Assistant Team Commander, serving as second in charge of the special operations team.

In his current patrol sergeant position, Kolke is a platoon supervisor overseeing the daily operations and administrative tasks of his assigned shift, providing leadership, training and direction of the patrol officers. Kolke has also developed and provided security training to multiple entities in the community including in public and private schools, places of worship, and local businesses. This training is customized to fit the specific needs of the facility, enhancing their level of security and/or response to emergency situations.

Throughout his career, Kolke has received numerous awards and citations, as well as written compliments from citizens who were recipients of his kindness and professionalism. Among his peers, Kolke is well-respected for his extensive law enforcement knowledge, his willingness to take on new challenges, and his ability to maintain a calm demeanor in emergency situations, police administrators said.

"Kolke has the natural capability of providing leadership, combined with compassion and a sense of humor that is often required in this stressful line of work," officials added in a written statement.

"After 25 years of excellent service, our department is losing a very talented command officer to a well-deserved retirement," said Police Chief Chad Baugh. "Sgt. Kolke has made a career full of significant contributions to the organization and to the Canton community alike, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors," Baugh added.

Sgt. Eric Kolke

Planned roadwork in township outlined for board trustees

Julie Brown
Special Writer

When Canton voters OK'd a 20-year roads millage in 2018, many were eager to see subdivision roads improve.

Not only is that work under way, but major roads are also being upgraded.

During a July 27 Canton Board of Trustees presentation, trustees asked questions about millage and repair plans through 2026. Director of Municipal Services Jade Smith noted the plans are posted on the roads page of the township website.

Smith said the township is working with Wayne County and with the Michigan Department of Transportation: "Obviously, that comes down to funding opportunities."

Bill Serchak of the township engineering department noted the Ford Road Boulevard construction will start in 2024 "at the earliest," and getting detour routes around Ford in good shape is important.

Serchak also outlined several key intersections slated for improvement, including a potential roundabout at Saltz-Denton-Ridge. There has been resistance to roundabouts in Wayne County, he said, and this would be the first in the county.

> *I'm definitely more interested in making sure the repair work is done right.*

Smith emphasized the importance of getting road bids out in winter to "hit the ground running." The two projects tentatively slated for 2022 are Canton Center Road, from Ford to Warren, and Warren, from Haggerty to Lilley, at a total cost of $4,500,000.

"There's a lot of work to do," said Serchak, who cautioned during his outline of repairs set for years three through five, that road projects are sometimes rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. Trustees unanimously accepted the report, with Treasurer Dian Slavens absent.

"The residents are going to be able to see what's coming up next," Trustee Sommer Foster said of the web element. In talking about quality of work, Clerk Michael Siegrist said, "I'm definitely more interested in making sure the repair work is done right."

In other business that evening, board members unanimously approved a new deputy supervisor position. It will pay $60,000 a year with $33,000 for fringe benefits, and be non-elected.

The board indicated there's a candidate in mind who would likely start work in late summer. The new role, to assist the township supervisor, follows an independent organizational assessment recommendation.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, August 19, 2021 for the following:

UNIT HEATERS (12) REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bid may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 8/05/2021

CN2265 - 080521 2.5 x 2.071

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, August 26, 2021 for the following:

ADA IMPROVEMENTS AT DPW BUILDING

Bid may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 8/05/2021

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, August 19, 2021 for the following:

PARKING LOTS AND ROAD PAVING REHABILITATION (SECTION 21)

Bid may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 8/05/2021

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 08/05/21

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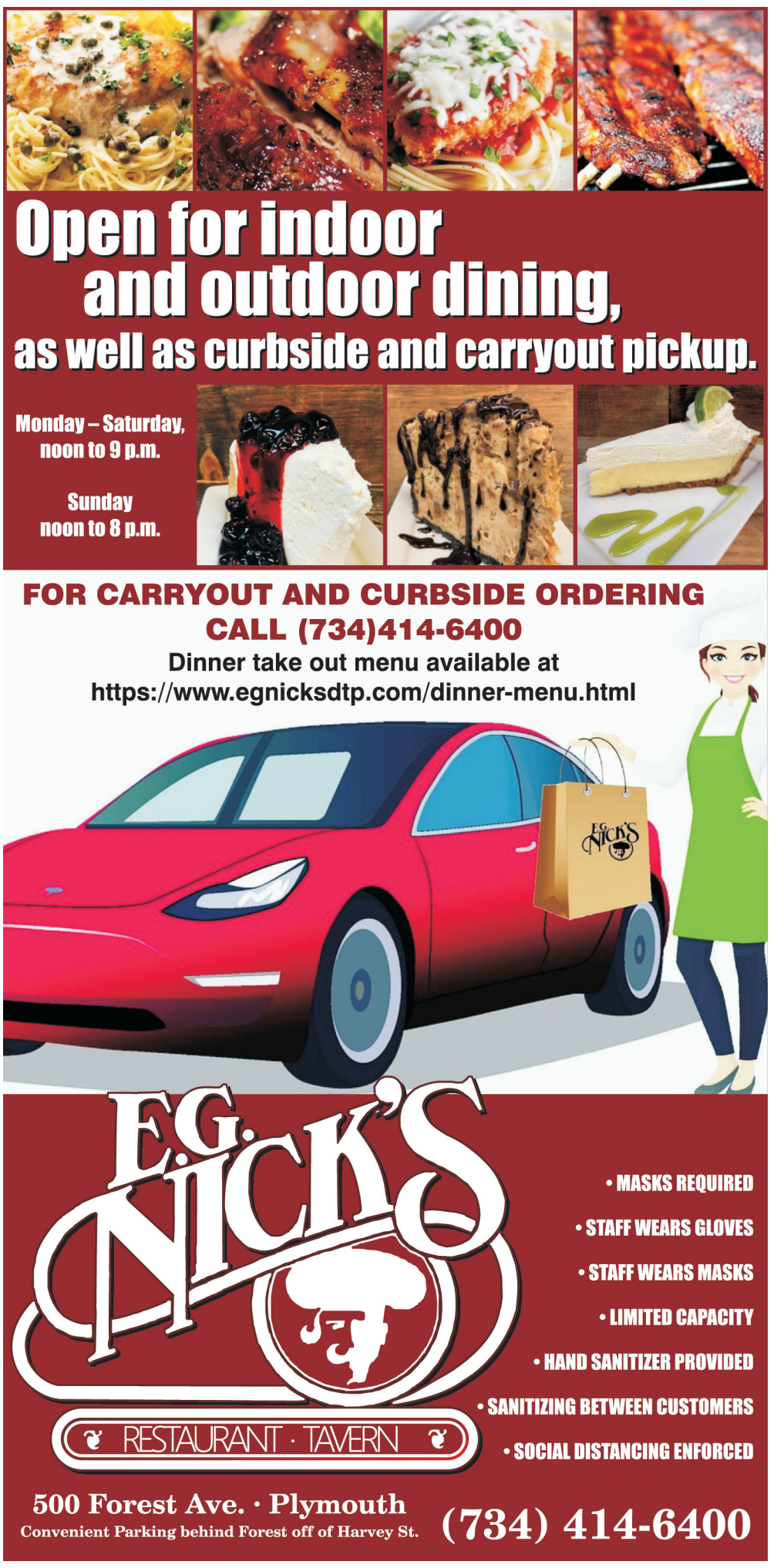

PLYMOUTH - ROMULUS

Safety first

Rotary Club Chicken Barbecue will include multiple health precautions

Preparation of the traditional beloved chicken dinners at the Plymouth Rotary Club Chicken Barbecue this year will include something new, along with the "secret seasoning" and genuine charcoal grills.

This year, all COVID safety protocols will also be in place, explained Brandon Bunt, chairman of the Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque Committee. Actually, Bunt rose through the ranks of the committee to become chairman last year, but the pandemic canceled the barbecue for only the second time since the event began in 1956, moving the committee assignments forward a year.

"Our big thing is to stress public confidence," Bunt said. "We will be doing health screenings and temperature checks of everyone participating in food preparation. We want people to feel safe."

Bunt stressed the importance of the event to the entire community, as this is the major fundraiser each year and the club usually sells about 10,000 dinners.

"I cannot stress strongly enough the community impact of this event," Bunt said, "especially on the volunteer groups."

He explained that a great deal of the money generated from the all-volunteer barbeque goes as direct funding to local projects and public services in the community. The Rotary Club is also very involved in funding local literacy projects and this year provided a great deal of funding to help offset the impact of COVID on community services.

"Our biggest impact is the funding of education for students to attend college and vocational schools," Bunt said. "That takes a huge chunk of the money."

Every chicken barbeque chairman agrees that the event could not happen without the work of the teens and their advisors from local schools.

Volunteer students from the high school athletic teams and various clubs actively participate in the preparation of the barbeque dinners, cleaning the corn on the cob, packaging the meals and a multitude of other necessary jobs. All volunteers will adhere strictly to health safety protocols, Bunt stressed. The Rotary Club donates generously to the clubs in return for the students' hard work during the day-long event.

Bunt said he expected there to be the same number of dinners available for sale at the regular $14 price although discounted pre-sale tickets are available from Rotary Club members for $12 until Aug. 16. The dinners, which will begin to come off the huge charcoal grilling pits behind The Gathering at 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, include a half a barbequed chicken, using the famous secret seasoning, corn on the cob, a roll with butter, a bottle of water and a cookie. The club will, as usual, fill Kellogg Park with picnic tables for those who want to enjoy the Sunday chicken dinners in the sunshine.

Take out dinners will be sold at West Middle School and tickets will be available at the Rotary Ticket Booths along Main Street during Fall Festival weekend, Sept. 10, 11 and 12.

It's official

Mayor Leroy Burcroff, left, and Romulus Police Chief Robert Pfannes, far right, officially welcome new police officer James Paquette to the Romulus force. Paquette, 23, took his official police officer oath July 12. He is a Ferris State University graduate and a downriver native.

Repairs to Harvey Street are OK'd

Just in time for the streets of downtown Plymouth to fill with thousands of visitors for the Fall Festival, construction on Harvey Street has been scheduled.

Plymouth City Commission member during their regular meeting last week, approved several contracts for the 2021 Harvey Street construction project.

The planned construction will close Harvey Street between Ann Arbor Trail and Penniman.

The project will include new water mains, new sanitary sewers, new storm sewers and a new roadway surface.

Also among the approvals by commissioners was the authorization of several temporary and permanent easements, approval of the construction contract with Pro-Line Asphalt, and the approval of new mast arms and pedestrian signals at both Ann Arbor Trail and Penniman. The project is expected to begin in August although the mast arms and new pedestrian signals aren't expected to be installed until spring of 2022 due to supply chain issues, according to officials .

Construction teams plan to meet with residents and businesses near the construction site during the next weeks to present the scope of the project and discuss the impact of the closure of Harvey Street may or may not affect particular businesses.

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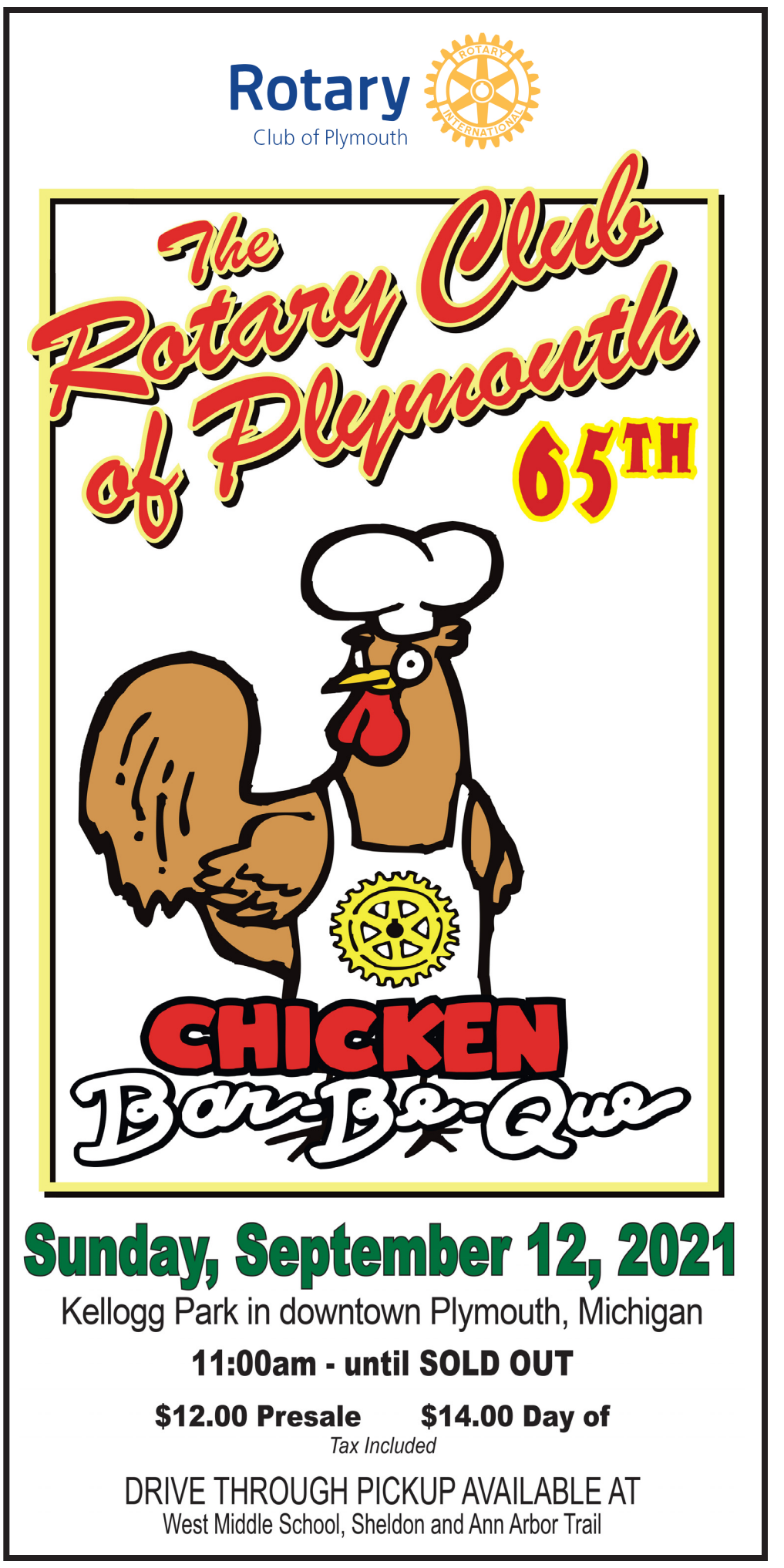

Inkster - Wayne

Learn to earn

Wayne Champions program receives $500,000 funding endowment pledge

Wayne Memorial High School students can continue to compete for cash based on improving their grades.

The Champions of Wayne program, an educational incentive program established at Wayne Memorial High School in 2008, has received a pledge of $550,000 from the Helppie Family Charitable Foundation. The grant, to be delivered over five years, is designed to be the sustaining financial base for the champions program at the school. Helppie Foundation co-founders Richard and Leslie Helppie have been the primary sponsors of the champions program since 2009 and have contributed more than $1.3 million to the grade-enhancement opportunity. Students sign a contract to make a specific grade point improvement and choose a mentor to help them achieve their goal. When they make their goal, the program pays them $200 in cash as a reward for their improved grades.

Champions also has received a commitment from Jeff and Lisa Styers, adding another $50,000 to their support as founding donors.

Simultaneous with the grant from the Helppie Foundation, champions has announced that the program operations will combine with The Guidance Center (TGC). TGC, established in 1958, is one of the premier non-profit organizations in Wayne County which last year served 16,000 children and adults. The program offers early childhood and mental health support among a vast array of other services as part of the 25 programs operated by the agency throughout Wayne County.

The champions program, open to all students at Wayne Memorial High School, continues unchanged as originally developed and maintains the champions name. The Guidance Center will seek additional and new funders to achieve the goals of the program and enhance student impact.

From its inception in 2008 with a small number of student champions (the student participants are referred to as champions) the program has grown significantly, reaching 600 students and 130 mentors in some semesters. Academic improvements are seen in 65 percent of the champions. Champions who successfully achieve their goals for a semester receive their $200 incentive and are celebrated at an awards banquet. At the end of each semester students look forward to the awards and recognitions banquet that includes inspirational speakers, shared success stories, and individual recognition. To date the program has provided more than $600,000 in awards at banquet celebrations to the student champions.

"The goal is to serve all students at Wayne Memorial High School and work to expand the effective program to other school districts in Wayne County," explained The Guidance Center President and CEO Kari Walker who has been serving as board chair for Champions of Wayne. Walker is an alumnus of Wayne Memorial High School.

"Since coming to Wayne Memorial in 2019, I have seen firsthand how Champions of Wayne impacts students' lives in positive ways. This partnership between Champions of Wayne and The Guidance Center solidifies the future of the program and continued success." Dr. James Anderson, principal of Wayne Memorial High School, added.

Richard Helppie, at left, of the Helppie Family Charitable Foundation and one of the Wayne Memorial High School 'Champions' along with Lisa Styers of Arrow Cares, Kari D. Walker, president and CEO of The Guidance Center and Dr. James Anderson principal of Wayne Memorial High School celebrate the new endowment outside Wayne Memorial High School.

Richard Helppie, co-founder of the Helppie Family Charitable Foundation was enthusiastic about the new venture.

"Champions of Wayne has had a material positive impact on both individual students and the learning culture at Wayne Memorial. Leslie and I have long sought a way to give champions a pathway to perpetuity. By combining with the outstanding management of TGC, we believe that the program's future is very bright."

Free Comcast wi-fi 'Lift Zone' is now open in Inkster

The first wi-fi connected "Lift Zone" is now open in Inkster.

The service, provided by Comcast, offers free robust WiFi in safe spaces designed to help students access the internet, participate in distance learning and do homework, especially in areas where there is a significant digital divide. Low-income students face a great risk of being left behind, particularly during the summer months while school is out, Comcast officials noted and these Lift Zones are designed to help those students who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to connect to the internet at home.

Lift Zones also serve adults and can connect them to online education, job searches, healthcare information and public assistance. These sites offer access to hundreds of hours of digital skills content to help families and site coordinators navigate online learning, officials explained.

The Lift Zone in Inkster is a partnership with New Step Community Development and Inkster Housing Commission, along with Comcast. A grand opening of the new facility took place last week at 29150 Carlysle St. in Inkster.

"This is a fantastic and critical partnership," said Aaron Cooper, executive director of the Inkster Housing Commission. "The ability for such an established company, like Comcast, to invest in the communities with the most need is very important - especially in the arena of low-income, affordable housing. Our residents have been the most disconnected, and the pandemic made this even more evident as so many of our families were disproportionately affected." Cooper said that during the grand opening, residents were shown how the Lift Zone can help them get connected online.

"We believe the Lift Zone will not only provide access to a necessary and essential service, but also it will empower our community," said Kristin Burney, interim executive director of New Step Community Development. "We are quickly working to ensure the children in our community have the programming and the safe space to help them succeed."

In March, Comcast announced it will invest $1 billion nationally over the next 10 years to help further close the digital divide and give even more low-income Americans the tools and resources they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

The Comcast $1 billion commitment includes investments in several critical areas, including: additional support for the ongoing Lift Zone initiative; new laptop and computer donations; grants for nonprofit community organizations to create opportunities for low-income Americans, particularly in media, technology and entrepreneurship and continued investment in the landmark Internet Essentials program. It is estimated that these new commitments will impact as many as 50 million Americans over the next 10 years. In 2021 alone, Comcast estimates students will be able to complete more than 25 million hours of remote learning lessons to further address the "homework gap" at the hundreds of Lift Zone locations that have already opened or will open soon.

"A connection to the Internet is important to every family, whether they are learning from home, applying for jobs or scheduling medical appointments," said Tim Collins, senior vice president of Comcast in Michigan. "Our partnership with the Inkster Housing Commission and New Step Community Development will help those families who are unable to connect to the Internet have access to these life-changing opportunities."

> *We are quickly working to ensure the children in our community have the programming and the safe space to help them succeed.*

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10:00 A.M.

2006 CHEVROLET 2G1WC581869243526
2010 DODGE 2B3CA3CV3AH271359
1997 CHEVROLET 1GCEC19R1VE190096
2012 CHEVROLET 1G1PC5SHXC7293593
2004 CHEVROLET 1G1ZU64824F206026
2006 HENSIM LUAHYM20261028258
2003 LINCOLN 1LNHM82W53Y638219
2002 OLDSMOBILE 1GHDT13S022214726
2012 FORD 1FAHP3F29CL448464
2010 FORD 1FAHP2FW5AG133146
2007 SATURN 5GZCZ33D67S852983
2008 JEEP 1J8FF47W08D620645
2014 MERCEDES WDDSJ4EB9EN044814
2008 NISSAN 1NAL21EX8C258155
2001 FORD 1FTRW08L81KB95162
2001 DODGE 2B7HB11X51K537204
2004 INFINITI 5N3AA08C74N801312
2008 FORD 1FMDK03WX8GA01053
2018 FORD 2FMPK4J97JBC36749
2018 FORD 2FMPK4J9XJBB50609
2019 FORD 2EMPK4J92KBB60956
2005 MERCURY 4M2ZU86K05UJ06901
2004 FORD 1FAFP53294G179528
2009 VOLKSWAGEN WVGAV75N79W001767
2012 FORD 1FMCU0E71CKA34881
2014 HONDA 5FNYF4H51EB044266
2012 OUTBACK 4YDT32024CB452637
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NORTHVILLE

Flying high
Eagle Scout builds new canine agility course in township park

Northville Township teen Jonathon Barringer's Eagle Scout project went to the dogs.

Barringer organized, raised funds, recruited assistance and built a six-obstacle agility course at the Northville Township Dog Park at Marv Gans Community Park that allows both dogs and their "best friends" exercise while bonding.

Barringer, a University of Detroit Jesuit High School student in Boy Scout Troop 755, hosted a grand opening of the course last week. He recruited dog trainer Elly Price to teach mini-agility dog training classes to introduce canines and the owners to the equipment and to learn some basic commands.

Agility is a growing dog sport in the United States. The American Kennel Club (AKC) reports more than one million entries to the AKC Agility program each year.

With the help of the owner, a dog races against the clock while navigating an obstacle course by using cues and body language of the owner for direction and guidance.

All breeds and all sizes can partake in agility.

"I got the idea for this as my Eagle Project after I took my dog to an agility course that was far away," said Barringer, 17. He wanted something closer to work with Rebel, his Golden Retriever.

This course is housed in the back of the large dogs' section of Marv Gans Community Park, where there was space to accommodate the layout.

The obstacles include: a pause table, where a pooch waits to start and finish a course; a hoop, in two sizes, for both small and bigger dogs to jump through; a dog walk (ramp) used to teach a dog to refrain from jumping off early; two bar jumps, made out of PVC pipe, each has four different heights; weave poles, six flexible poles to weave through and a tunnel, a one-way obstacle a dog must go all the way through.

Barringer designed the course focusing on quality and longevity. It cost $5,000 to build.

To raise money for the construction of the obstacle course, Barringer collected and cashed in refundable bottles, picked up dog waste for donating customers, started a GoFundMe campaign and secured $2,500 in business sponsorships.

"Jonathon worked very hard and did a great job on the agility course," said Northville Parks and Recreation Director Mark Gasche. "We expect it will be a popular addition to our dog park, as we have observed many of the members already working with their dogs on the course."

An Eagle Project is a requirement to get the Eagle Scout designation, the highest rank in the Boy Scout program. Only 4 percent of Scouts achieve this rank. During the project, Barringer demonstrated leadership and organizational skills while performing a project for the benefit of their community, Scouting officials said.

"I was 16 when I started this project and it took six months to build," Barringer said. "I'm happy how it turned out."

The Marv Gans Community Park Dog Park is off Five Mile Road, west of Beck Road. It is open from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. daily. To become a dog park member, visit http://northvilleparksandrec.org/parks_and_facilities/parks/dog_park.

Boy Scout Jonathon Barringer and his dog, Rebel, enjoy the Dog Agility Course he designed and built at Marv Gans Community Park as his Eagle Scout project.

The Dog Agility Course includes multiple training obstacles including hoops, ramps, a tunnel and weaving poles.

Six Mile Road bridge closed during I-275 reconstruction

Construction barrels are already in place in the Northville area.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) closed the Six Mile Road bridge over I-275 last week for repairs which will continue approximately eight weeks.

The I-275 exit and entrance ramps will remain open. Some lanes on 275 may close intermittently during off-peak hours for the bridge project.

The bridge closure is part of Revive 275, a project to repair and rebuild 24 miles of I-275 between Six Mile Road and Will Carlton Road in Wayne County in six phases over four years.

The Five Mile bridge repair was delayed until 2022, so the timeline on the Six Mile bridge project was moved up.

For more information on Revive 275, visit https://revive275.org/.

Separately, Wayne County is resurfacing Seven Mile Road from Beck to Clement roads and Northville Road between Seven Mile Road and Johnson Street.

Beck Road, the section from Curtis Road, south to Six Mile Road, is on hold pending some necessary surface treatment on the bridge over Johnson Creek. Once that bridge work is completed, the Wayne County road crew will return to resurface the remaining half mile.

The exact timeline is unknown.

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Sumpter - Westland

County Commissioner urges municipal service contracts

Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous told Sumpter Township officials that after exhausting other resources, he was hoping to schedule a meeting with Wayne County Executive Warren Evans regarding services in the area.

Haidous attended the most recent meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees in response to numerous complaints regarding unkempt drainage ditches and high weeds and brush in the area. Residents had complained to members of the board about the serious safety threat high weeds caused as visibility was blocked at several intersections. Fire department officials had also expressed concern about fire hydrants being blocked by high weeds.

Earlier this month, members of the board authorized cutting of the weeds and brush by township department of public works employees in response to the complaints, but were adamant that this was the responsibility of the county.

Haidous, who represents the largest county commission district, agreed and said he felt it was a serious problem and that the county "needs to do a lot of things they are not doing."

He said that the lack of service in the township, particularly with high weeds presenting a traffic hazard and impeding visibility, had been ongoing for several years and that in response he and members of a county committee had reviewed service plans across the country. He said that the best and most efficient plan they found was in Texas where the county contracted the weed cutting and some general forestry maintenance services to the local municipality. The local municipal employees performed the work and the country then reimbursed the community for the service at a rate specified in a formal contract.

> *Haidous said he had been pushing for such an arrangement since 2019 with little or no success or response...*

Haidous said he had been pushing for such an arrangement since 2019 with little or no success or response from county administration. He told the officials and audience members at the July 27 meeting that his repeated suggestions had been met with resistance at some county levels. He said that for the first time, due primarily to the lack of staffing, the county forestry department had recently agreed to use an outside contractor for some work.

Trustee Tim Rush said the problem is not only the high weeds but several situations where dead tree branches, eaten by carpenter ants or other insects, hang over the roads in the township.

"I call them the widow makers. They would wipe out a car in rain storm. It is only a matter of time," he said, "before there is a loss of life."

Haidous repeatedly emphasized that he felt the solution to the hazard presented by the high weeds was a contract between the municipality and the county and that he intended "to keep the pressure on."

Haidous admitted that the county officials "have not been too responsive" to his continued complaints, requests for service and suggestion for municipal contracts. "They even told me there would be somebody here tonight," he told the board trustees.

"Maybe your guy got lost in the weeds on the way here," suggested Trustee Matt Oddy.

Haidous said that he will continue to be the "squeaky wheel" regarding the issue and promote the municipal contract idea. "I need to go to the top," he said.

BBQ

FROM PAGE 1

11 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 6 and the Family Fun Time from 2 until 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7. General admission Saturday begins at 4 p.m. and the event will close at 11 p.m.

Parking for Blues, Brews and BBQ will be free this year at Thomas H. Brown Central City Park, with overflow parking at John Glenn High School, the Friendship Senior Center, and William D. Ford Career Technical Center as well. Free shuttle buses will be provided from the three overflow parking locations from 6 until 11:30 p.m. Friday and from 5 until 11:30 p.m. Saturday.

More information is available at https://www.cityofwestland.com/637/Westland-Blues-Brews-and-Barbecue along with a complete list of the sponsors who made the event possible.

Thornetta Davis

Mosquito control program OK'd

Outdoor life in Westland should become far more pleasant soon.

Officials in the city have declared war on the invading horde of mosquitoes that have been plaguing residents recently. The recent heavy rainfall has provided an ideal breeding spot for mosquito larvae in the 7,300 catch basins in the city and residents are feeling the 'bite' as they attempt any outdoor activities, officials said.

In response to numerous complaint calls, the city received approval from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to take proactive measure using G30 Spinsad Briquettes in the catch basins. The comprehensive mosquito abatement program is designed to eliminate mosquito larvae in standing water before hatching.

Briquettes will also be available to homeowners associations, residents with ponds and other potential breeding grounds for the biting insects.

"The City of Westland is committed to keeping our residents healthy and safe. With the recent influx of rain in our community, taking action against mosquitoes will help each resident enjoy Michigan's summers and the amenities offered by our city," said Mayor William R. Wild.

Officials said the type of larvaeside being used will not harm the surface water quality and is meant to dissolve almost immediately.

It is, officials said, a natural substance made by bacteria that is usually toxic to insects but environmentally safe.

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Saturday, August 3, 2019
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Family Fun Time
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - The Joe Stanley Trio
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Drew Schultz & The Broken Habits
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